

# St. Louis Region Labor Market Analysis

The St. Louis Region is situated on the east of the State of Missouri and borders the State of Illinois. Included in the St. Louis Region are the counties of Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

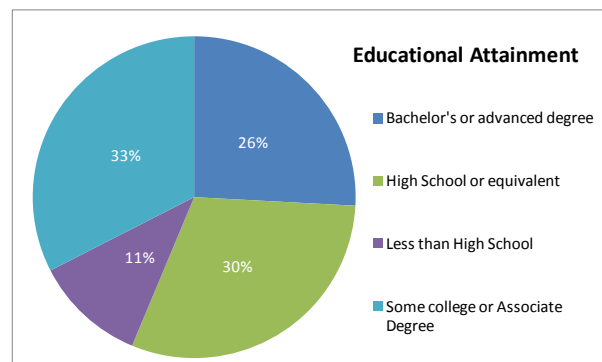
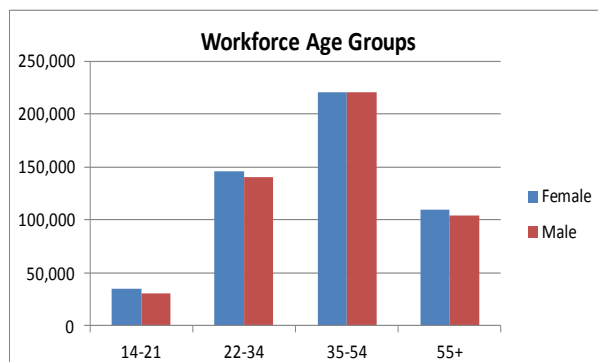
This region includes several major cities such as Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, Maplewood and the City of St. Louis. As a major metropolitan area, many of Missouri's major roads cross through this region, including Interstate 70, Interstate 44, Interstate 55 and Interstate 64, as well as I-170 and I-270. In addition, many highways such as Highway 50, Highway 40, Highway 61 and Highway 67 cross through the region, allowing a great deal of travel through the area.

## Workforce

The total population of the Missouri workforce is 2,671,013, and the St. Louis Region is home to 1,006,758, or 37.7%, of the state's workforce. The age group for workforce is defined as 14 years or more. The largest population is found in St. Louis County with 578,119, followed by St. Louis City with 222,065.

The population of the workforce is aging. In the St. Louis Region, 21.19% of the workforce is age 55 or older. The percentage for the state is slightly higher, with an average of 21.44% for the same age group.

The education attainment rate for the St. Louis Region is higher than the average for Missouri. In the St. Louis Region, 89% of the workforce has a high school diploma or higher, compared to 88% for the state. The number of those who have not obtained a high school diploma is 11% in the St. Louis Region and 12% statewide.



Source: MERIC WIA County Demographics compiled from LEHD data ([missourieconomy.org/regional/index.stm](http://missourieconomy.org/regional/index.stm))

## Missouri Labor Supply & Demand

The Missouri Labor Supply & Demand Analysis Report, published March 2015, takes job seeker information from people who registered with jobs.mo.gov during 2014 and compares it to employer job ads during the same time period. *Science and Technology*, *Business and Sales* and *Healthcare* have the highest gaps, while *Production, Management and Support* and *Construction, Installation, Maintenance and Repair* have the largest surplus of workforce.

St. Louis WIA	Total	Science & Technology	Business & Sales	Health Care & Related	Other Services	Transportation	Food Service	Production	Management & Support	CIMR*
# Job Ads	136,301	27,070	27,833	20,678	8,812	7,526	6,034	3,185	28,534	6,629
% Job Ads	100%	19.9%	20.4%	15.2%	6.5%	5.5%	4.4%	2.3%	20.9%	4.9%
# Jobseekers	42,060	1,504	4,699	4,159	2,479	3,263	3,274	4,149	12,392	6,142
% Jobs Sought	100%	3.6%	11.2%	9.9%	5.9%	7.8%	7.8%	9.9%	29.5%	14.6%
Gap		16.3%	9.2%	5.3%	0.6%	-2.2%	-3.4%	-7.5%	-8.5%	-9.7%

\*CIMR = Construction, Installation, Maintenance & Repair

Source: Missouri Labor Market Supply & Demand Analysis, March 2015

## Commuting Patterns

Commuting patterns tell us a great deal about a region. In the St. Louis Region, a majority of the workforce commutes to a different county to work. In fact, over half the workforce in all but in 4 of the 5 counties in the region leave the county where they live for employment. In contrast, only 8.6% of the workforce leaves the St. Louis Region for employment. From these facts, we can conclude that most persons commute to a different county within the St. Louis Region for employment. In addition, we can also infer that persons living in the St. Louis Region are skilled in the industries and occupations in demand in this region.

Percent of Employees Working Outside of Home County			
St. Charles	64%	Franklin	58%
St. Louis City	56%	Jefferson	75%
St. Louis	35%		

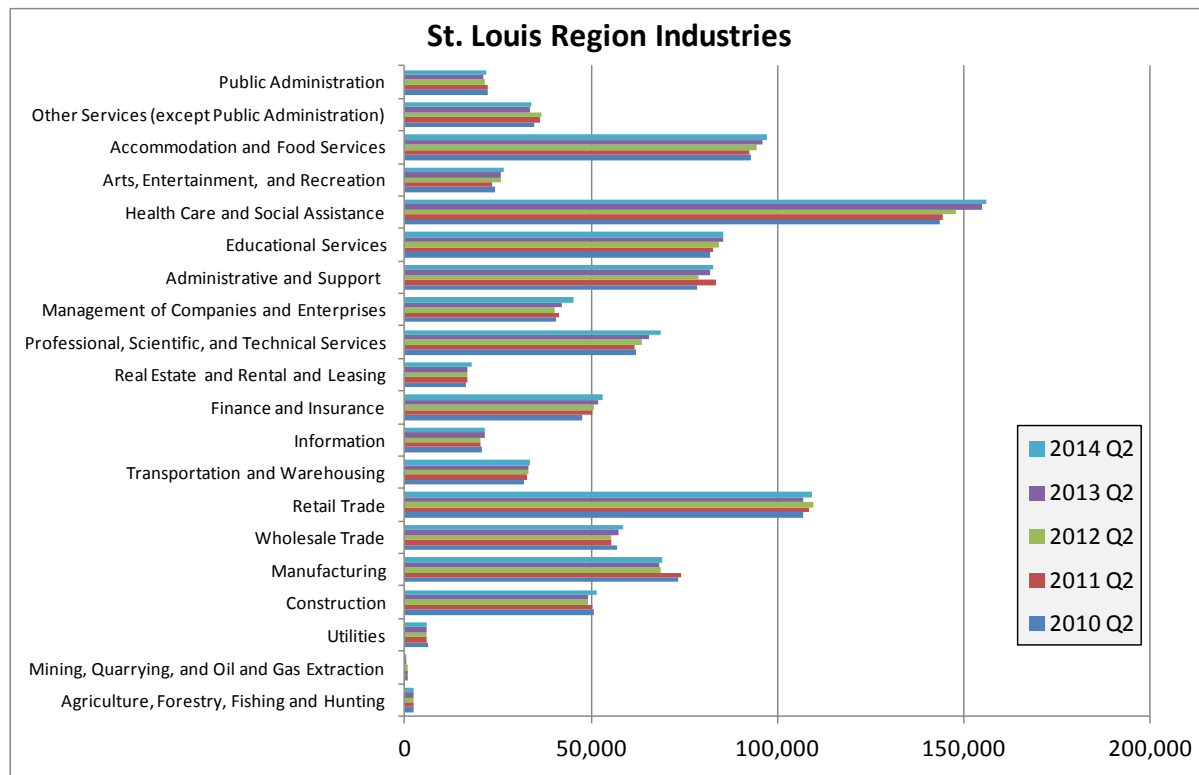
Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD, On the Map (onthemap.ces.census.gov)

## Industries

The chart illustrates the changes in employment in the St. Louis Region by industry during the 5 year period. Industries employing the most people at the end of the second quarter of 2014 (most recent data available) are *Health Care and Social Assistance*; *Retail Trade*; *Accommodation and Food Service*, *Educational Services* and *Administrative and Support*. Employment in these industries equals 51% of the total employment in the region.

Most industries experienced overall employment growth over the last 5 years. The highest levels of employment growth are seen in the industries of *Health Care and Social Assistance*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; and *Finance and Insurance*. Some industries saw decreasing employment numbers during the same 5 year period. *Manufacturing* is the industry with the most significant employment decrease.

The largest employers in the St. Louis Region are in a variety of industries, including government and universities, along with many private sector firms such as health care with **Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis Children's Hospital, Mercy Hospital St. Louis and St. Anthony's Medical Center**; business consulting with **Maritz, Inc.**; headquarters operations such as **Anheuser-Busch, Nestle Purina Pet Care Company, Monsanto and Express Scripts Holding Company**; manufacturing at **General Motors and The Boeing Company**; and financial services with **Edward Jones** and **Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC**.



Source: US Census Bureau, QWI Explorer Application ([qwiexplorer.ces.census.gov](http://qwiexplorer.ces.census.gov))

## Occupations

In *The ABCs of Missouri Career Grades 2012-2022*, letter grades are assigned to 800+ occupations based on the total job openings and average wage of the occupation. Job openings include both new growth (jobs added to the workforce) and replacements (vacancies created by employees moving to a different occupation or retiring). Projections are made for each occupation on a statewide basis as well as each of the regions. Therefore, a job may be graded differently in the statewide projections and each region based on the openings and wages for specific areas of the state.

In the St. Louis Region, approximately 350,000 job openings are projected between 2012 through 2022. Most of the job openings, over 148,000 are projected in the Grade B category. Many of the job openings are in entry level occupations, such as *Food Preparation and Serving Workers; Retail Salespersons; Cashiers; Waiters and Waitresses; Customer Service Representatives, Office Clerks; and Laborers*.

Each occupation is also classified in the Now, Next and Later categories. A “Now” job would require short- to moderate-term on-the-job training lasting no more than 12 months. “Next” occupations generally require an Associate’s degree or substantial vocational training lasting more than one year. “Later” occupations usually require a bachelor’s or advanced degree and in addition to specific work experience.

St. Louis Region - Good Outlook Careers				
	Title	Grade	Openings	Average Wage
NOW	Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	B	13,629	\$18,401
	Retail Salespersons	C+	12,112	\$25,608
	Cashiers	C+	10,667	\$20,574
	Waiters and Waitresses	C+	10,324	\$19,855
	Customer Service Representatives	B+	9,078	\$32,678
	Office Clerks, General	B	6,321	\$32,452
	Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers	B+	5,941	\$28,600
NEXT	Registered Nurse	A	8,857	\$60,475
	Nursing Assistant	B	4,324	\$23,994
	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	B+	3,192	\$53,101
	Carpenters	A+	3,128	\$55,994
	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	B+	3,124	\$40,888
	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	B	2,828	\$29,818
	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	B	2,638	\$37,558
LATER	General and Operations Managers	A+	6,348	\$104,714
	Accountants & Auditors	A+	4,588	\$ 73,764
	Computer Systems Analysts	A+	2,482	\$ 83,858
	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	B+	1,970	\$ 58,646
	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Ed.	B	1,928	\$ 55,500
	Software Developers, Applications	A+	1,845	\$ 90,147
	Middle School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Ed.	B+	1,736	\$ 58,309

Source: The ABCs of Missouri Career Grades 2012-2022, St. Louis Region

MERIC also prepares a document listing the top 20 occupations based on the number of job openings for each region, and the *St. Louis Region Top Openings* is attached.

Another source for identifying in-demand occupations is through real-time data. A tool called Burning Glass compiles information from job postings on over 38,000 sites into a database that can be queried to find information on jobs. This information provides insight on the jobs employers are currently hiring, occupations that are in-demand and skills that employers require for employees.

The Missouri Real-Time Labor Market Summary compiles information queried through Burning Glass. Briefs are published for the State of Missouri, and for each region. Since the brief is published every other month, the information is always current. The most recent publication is attached to this summary.

Below is a list of the top 25 occupations posted in job ads by employers in the St. Louis Missouri Region in calendar year 2014.

Burning Glass -- Top Job Postings in 2014	
Occupation	Job Postings
+Software Developers, Applications	5,522
*+Registered Nurses	5,142
+Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,642
*Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	4,548
*+Retail Salespersons	4,125
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	2,965
*+Customer Service Representatives	2,669
+Computer Systems Analysts	2,365
Medical and Health Services Managers	2,122
Business Intelligence Analysts	1,941
*Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,841
Human Resources Specialists	1,812
Managers, All Other	1,767
Computer User Support Specialists	1,747
*+Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	1,715
Sales Managers	1,690
*+Accountants	1,470
*+General and Operations Managers	1,465
+First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,331
+Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	1,317
Database Administrators	1,284
Management Analysts	1,237
*+Nursing Assistants	1,206
Computer Systems Engineers/Architects	1,142
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	1,142

Source: Labor Insight/Burning Glass Occupation Data

\*Occupation on projected top 20 St. Louis Region Top Openings list

+Occupation listed as St. Louis Region Good Outlook Career in Career Grades

Within the sources of information for employment projections and in real-time data in job ads, we see many of the occupation titles repeated, especially in the Now and Next categories. Reviewing the data found in multiple sources helps to validate the need for these occupations.

March 2015